



**GRANT RECIPIENT**  
PORTAGE PARKS AND  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**YEAR**  
2007

**COUNTY**  
PORTER

**CATEGORY**  
EDUCATION/OUTREACH

**GRANT AWARD**  
\$50,000

**LOCAL SHARE**  
\$55,000

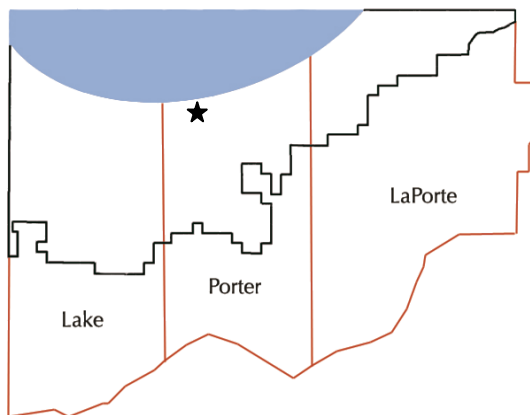


**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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## Portage Outdoor Science Education Program

Portage Parks and Recreation Department partnered with the Portage Township Schools to develop a K-12 outdoor science education curriculum. The project developed a series of field trip-based lesson plans specifically developed for each of the thirteen different grade levels. The educational sessions focused on five separate and diverse natural areas within Portage including a fen, a natural dune area on the Lake Michigan shoreline, an upland wooded 16 acre parcel, a black oak savanna and over three miles of Salt Creek, one of northwest Indiana's best steelhead fishing tributaries. Each series of lesson plans included classroom-based pre-fieldtrip instruction on a particular subject. Subject matter for the outdoor science curriculum included environmental and conservation issues, preservation practices, habitat identification, wildlife biology, geology, botany, meteorology/water cycle and ecosystems. All materials met the Indiana Academic Standards as established by the Indiana Department of Education.



**RESULT:** Outdoor Based Curriculum for 13 grades in Portage School System.